

Christian Erk

Moral Philosophy

Fundamental Concepts



editiones scholasticae

Detailed Contents

I	What is Ethics?	1
1	Ethics as the Science of True Good and Evil in Human Acts	2
2	Ethics as an Action-Oriented Endeavour.....	4
3	Levels of Talking about Ethics	9
4	Plan of this Book.....	11
II	Truth.....	17
1	What is Truth?.....	17
1.1	Ontological truth.....	19
1.2	Logical truth	21
1.3	Moral truth.....	24
2	The Law of Non-Contradiction	25
3	(Ethical) Relativism: A Self-Refuting Theory.....	30
3.1	What is (Ethical) Relativism?.....	31
3.2	The Shortcomings of (Ethical) Relativism.....	34
III	Moral Debate	39
1	The Art of Reasoning Together: Guidelines for Moral Debate ..	39
2	The Currency of Moral Debate: Arguments.....	43
2.1	What is an Argument?.....	44
2.2	Types of Arguments	47
2.3	Good and Bad Arguments	64
IV	Human Acts	75
1	What is a Human Act?.....	75
1.1	Human Acts and Acts of a Human Being	76
1.2	Voluntary and Involuntary Human Acts	79
2	The Elements of a Human Act	86
2.1	The Interior Action (of the Will) and its Object.....	88
2.2	The Exterior Action and its Object.....	95
2.3	The Circumstances	99
2.4	The Consequences.....	101
2.5	Summary.....	105
3	Excursus: Social Human Acts	107
4	The Moral Quality of Human Acts.....	112

4.1	The Influence of the Finis Operantis on the Overall Goodness/ Badness of the Human Action.....	113
4.2	The Influence of the Finis Operis on the Overall Goodness/ Badness of the Human Action.....	114
4.3	The Influence of the Circumstances on the Overall Goodness/ Badness of the Human Action.....	115
4.4	The Influence of the Consequences on the Overall Goodness/ Badness of the Human Action.....	118
4.5	Résumé: The Moral Quality of Human Acts	123
4.6	Excursus: The Principle of Double Effect.....	126
4.7	Excursus: Cooperation in Evil Actions	128
V	The Good	139
1	The Nature of the Good	139
2	The Non-Existence of Good: Evil	144
3	The Content of the Good: Basic Human Goods	147
VI	Duties and Rights.....	155
1	What we are (not) free to do: Duties and Liberty-Rights	155
2	The Content of a Duty or a Right (ϕ)	159
2.1	Active Rights and Passive Rights.....	159
2.2	Positive and Negative Duties and Rights	160
2.3	Excursus: Active Rights \neq Negative Claim-Rights.....	163
2.4	Perfect and Imperfect Duties and Rights.....	164
3	The Subject of a Duty / Right (A)	164
4	The Counterpart of a Duty/ Claim-right (B).....	166
4.1	Horizontal Duties and Claim-Rights	168
4.2	Vertical Duties.....	169
4.3	Excursus: Ought Implies Can.....	170
5	The Addressee (C) of a Duty/ Right	172
6	The Justification of a Duty / Right (Z)	173
6.1	Legal Rights and Duties	173
6.2	Conventional Rights and Duties.....	174
6.3	Moral Rights and Duties.....	175
7	Résumé: Kinds and Variants of Duties and Rights.....	176
7.1	Types of Duties and Rights	176
7.2	Square of Correlation and Opposition.....	179
7.3	Variants of Duties and Rights	179
VII	The Moral Duties and Rights of the Human Person	185
1	The Good and the Human Person's Moral Duty to Pursue it ...	186

1.1 The Human Person's Duty to Realise her Individual Good.....	193
1.2 Excursus: Realising the Basic Human Good "Life"	198
1.3 The Human Person's Moral Duty to Contribute to the Realisation of the Common Good.....	203
2 The Moral Rights Grounded in the Dignity of the Human Person.....	207
2.1 Understanding Dignity	207
2.2 Respecting Dignity	211
2.3 Human Rights: Strict vs. Non-strict	214
2.4 The Human Person's Moral Right to Have her Dignity Respected...	215
3 Résumé: The Moral Duties and Rights of the Human Person..	217
VIII The Virtues.....	225
1 Habit.....	225
2 Virtue.....	228
3 The Powers of the Human Soul.....	230
3.1 Intellectual Power.....	231
3.2 Appetitive Power	232
4 The Virtues Perfecting the Intellectual and Appetitive Powers of the Human Soul	235
4.1 The Intellectual Virtues Perfecting the Intellectual Powers, i.e. the Theoretical and Practical Reason	235
4.2 The Moral Virtues Perfecting the Appetitive Powers, i.e. the Rational and Irrational Appetite	237
5 Human Actions and the Virtues	241
IX Responsibility.....	247
1 Prospective Responsibility	248
2 Retrospective Responsibility	249
2.1 (Retrospective) Causal Responsibility	249
2.2 (Retrospective) Accountability Responsibility	250
3 Résumé: An Overview of the Types of Responsibility	255
Appendix	261
1 Propositions and Opposition of Propositions	261
1.1 Kinds of Propositions.....	262
1.2 Opposition of Singular Propositions	263
1.3 Opposition of Universal and/ or Particular Propositions	265
1.4 Truth Value of Opposing Propositions.....	267
2 The Process of a Human Action.....	268

3	Explanation of the Abbreviations used in the Formulas of Individual and Social Actions	271
4	Consequentialism: An odd moral Theory.....	273
5	Alternative Enumerations of Basic Human Goods.....	274
6	Alternative Formulations of the PDE	276
7	Conscience	279
Indices.....	287	
	List of Abbreviations.....	289
	List of Tables, Figures and Illustrations	291
	References	293
	Literature Cited in Abbreviation	293
	Bibliography	300